

Appl. No. 09/686,502
Amdt. Dated June 9, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 10, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P13438-US2
EUS/J/P/05-3131

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The network service entity of Claim [[1]] 11, further comprising:
a point-to-multipoint functional entity coupled to said message distributor unit.
3. (Currently Amended) The network service entity of Claim [[1]] 11, wherein the base station system comprises an IP-based base station system.
4. (Currently Amended) The network service entity of Claim [[1]] 11, wherein said signalling functional unit comprises a BVC signalling functional unit.
5. (Currently Amended) The network service entity of Claim [[1]] 11, wherein said network service entity comprises a PCU.
6. (Currently Amended) The network service entity of Claim [[1]] 11, wherein said packet information comprises GPRS data.
7. (Currently Amended) The network service entity of Claim [[1]] 11, wherein said packet information comprises EDGE GPRS data.
8. (Currently Amended) The network service entity of Claim [[1]] 11, wherein said connection interface comprises a Gb interface.

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9. (Currently Amended) The network service entity of Claim [[1]] 11, wherein said at least one point-to-point functional unit includes an RLC/MAC control unit.

10. (Currently Amended) The network service entity of Claim [[1]] 11, wherein said at least one point-to-point functional unit is coupled to a radio air interface.

11. (Currently Amended) A network service entity for a base station system, comprising:

at least one point-to-point functional unit;

a signalling function unit; and

a message distributor unit, said message distributor unit coupled to said at least one point-to-point functional unit, said signalling function unit, and a connection interface, said message distributor unit operable to

distribute packet information to or from said connection interface and ~~The network service entity of Claim 1, wherein said message distributor unit is operable to route~~ BSS GPRS Protocol Virtual Connections Identifier (BVCI) based (BVCI-based BSS GPRS Protocol (BSSGP) BSSGP packets.

12. (Currently Amended) The network service entity of claim 11 [[1]], wherein said message distributor unit is operable to build a BVCI-to-IP address/port relationship table using a plug 'n play application.

13-38. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A node gateway for a base station system, comprising:

at least one point-to-point functional unit;

a signaling function unit; and

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a message distributor unit coupled to a connection interface, ~~and a point-to-multipoint functional unit and said signaling function unit~~, said message distributor unit operable to distribute packet information to a plurality of network units and to route BVCI-based BSSGP packets via said connection interface, ~~and a network service management functional unit.~~

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48 [[41]], wherein the base station system comprises an IP-based base station system.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48 [[41]], wherein said signalling information comprises BVC signalling information.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48 [[41]], wherein said network service functions reside in a PCU.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48 [[41]], wherein said data comprises GPRS packet data.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48 [[41]], wherein said data comprises EDGE GPRS data.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48 [[41]], wherein said connection interface comprises a Gb interface.

48. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling network service functions in a base station system, comprising the steps of:
controlling a connection for conveying data between at least two endpoints in said base station system;

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controlling a connection for conveying said data between at least a third endpoint and said at least two endpoints in said base station system;

controlling at least one connection for conveying signalling information in said base station system; and

distributing said data to or from a connection interface including ~~The method of Claim 41, wherein the step of distributing said data to or from a connection interface comprises routing BVCI-based BSSGP packets to or from a Gb interface.~~

49. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising the step of using a plug 'n play application to build a BVCI-to-IP address/port relationship table.

50. (New) The node of claim 40, the message distribution unit further operable to build a BVCI-to-IP address/port relationship table using a plug 'n play application.